

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Final Results of Cereal and Hay Harvest, 1951-52.

Although there still are a few minor wheat districts where the completion of the collection has been delayed, and a number of odd returns from farmers in other districts are outstanding, a safe estimate has been made for all these and the totals now submitted may be accepted subject to slight alteration.

SEASONAL CONDITIONS. The average rainfall over the Agricultural Areas was above the mean of the last 46 years for each of the months April to August and the opening of the season was ideal in most districts, though there was rather too much rain in the wetter districts. A drier than usual September was fortunate in view of the wet winter and again it was fortunate that this should be followed by heavier than usual rains in October. There was some damage from winds in October and November. The April-November rainfall was 16.16 inches and the average wheat yield was 16.93 bushels. In 1950-51 the rainfall was only 11.21 inches and the yield 16.74 bushels. The means for the ten seasons 1941-42 to 1950-51 have been 11.66 inches and 12.98 bushels.

The yield of wheat is 27,305,953 bushels compared with the November estimate of 27,250,000; barley 16,855,193 compared with 17,500,000 (probably there was more wind damage than estimated) and oats 5,408,185 compared with 5,500,000.

NOTE:- The 1951/52 particulars are shown hereunder with those for 1950/51 in parentheses. For statistical purposes, the weight of bags is not counted as grain.

WHEAT:- The yield of 27,305,953 (30,936,044) bushels averaged 16.93 (16.74) bushels per acre from an area of 1,612,987 (1,847,791) acres including areas failed. Including wheat for hay and green forage, the total area was 1,688,084 (1,950,076) acres.

WHEAT AND FALLOW:- On fallowed land 1,236,245 acres of wheat produced 22,333,730 bushels averaging 18.07 bushels per acre. On not fallowed land, there were 376,742 acres with 4,972,223 bushels averaging 13.20 bushels. The average yields the previous season were 18.32 bushels on fallow land and 10.59 on land not fallowed.

BARLEY:- The yield totalled 16,855,193 (16,727,030) bushels and the average per acre was 20.26 (21.87). 15,553,377 bushels were reported to be 2 row (malting) and 1,301,816 bushels 6 row. The acreage for grain was 831,893 (764,862) and for all purposes 858,789 (793,717). (The 1951/52 yield and area exceed the records of the previous year.

OATS:- The yield totalled 5,408,185 (3,533,333) bushels and the average per acre was 13.96 (13.02). The acreage for grain was 387,361 (271,396) acres and for all purposes 816,379 (664,498). The 1951/52 yield is a record.

CEREALS ETC. USED ON FARMS:- Farmers reported that they used the following quantities of cereals, etc. on their farms during the twelve months ended March 1952. For seed - Wheat 1,805,901, Barley 1,020,263 and Oats 924,846 bushels. For feed for livestock and poultry - Wheat 863,954, Barley 540,087, Oats 701,782 bushels and Hay and Chaff 161,281 tons. Of the wheat produced in 1951/52, it was reported that 1,819,511 bushels were retained on the farms for seed and 403,338 bushels for feed.

RYE:- There had been a decided increase in the areas cropped with rye. In 1935-36 there were only 1,680 acres. For 1951/52 there was a total of 57,599 of which 45,043 (34,616) acres were for grain yielding 206,531 (146,934) bushels.

FIELD PEAS:- 290,033 (241,955) bushels from 18,435 (16,126) acres.

HAY:- 255,170 (260,856) acres were cut for hay, wheaten being 63,903 (89,018) and oaten 132,443 (126,555) acres. The total yield was 376,002 (362,162) tons, wheaten being 96,739 (129,704) and oaten 188,282 (159,161). Average tons per acre were 1.47 (1.39).

ACREAGES:- The following table shows the total areas under wheat, barley and oats for all purposes, (grain, hay or green fodder) for 1930-31 - the maximum year; for 1943-44 - the lowest areas in recent years; for each of the last five seasons, and for 1952-53 representing the areas that farmers indicated they intended to sow when particulars of the recent harvest were being collected during the past 3 or 4 months. It is noted that the combined areas under wheat, barley and oats are decreasing slightly, the decrease for wheat being greater than the increase for barley and oats. The increased area under oats is due principally to increased areas being sown for grazing.

Season		Wheat	Barley	Oats	Total
1930-31	acres	4,507,213	267,369	519,300	5,293,882
1943-44	"	1,675,778	304,382	558,065	2,538,225
1947-48	"	2,486,505	580,682	559,931	3,627,118
1948-49	"	2,159,218	728,398	622,588	3,510,204
1949-50	"	2,005,907	721,149	624,592	3,351,648
1950-51	"	1,950,076	793,717	664,498	3,408,291
1951-52	"	1,688,084	858,789	816,379	3,363,252
1952-53	"	1,530,000	850,000	816,000	3,196,000

For 1952-53, the total area intended for barley and oats exceeds the intended area for wheat. This is the first time such has occurred.

In recent weeks there has been on the one hand an appeal for farmers to sow increased acreages while on the other hand they have been hindered in some districts by excessive rain. Representative farmers are being asked to advise local police officers of the actual areas sown in order to ascertain whether farmers generally have sown more or less than intended.

VARIETIES SOWN:- Particulars of the acreages sown with the principal varieties of wheat, barley and oats are being published separately.

THE ATTACHED STATEMENTS show details of 1951/52 crops in Statistical Divisions and also the 1951/52 totals compared with the five previous seasons.

A. W. BOWDEN,

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

Statistical Office,
ADELAIDE.

16th July, 1952.

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
FINAL RESULTS OF CEREALS & HAY, 1951-52.

1. ACREAGE CROPPED

Divisions	Total Cereals Peas, Hay Forage	<i>Area for Grain</i>			Hay Total	Fed Off Areas (total)
		Wheat	Barley	Oats		
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Central	842,733	296,179	308,578	50,030	105,794	67,938
Lower North	748,587	430,583	145,973	60,352	50,683	55,424
Upper North	133,502	100,924	8,467	10,037	9,517	3,506
South Eastern	166,746	22,222	21,807	30,688	35,645	55,259
Western	1,040,276	497,330	149,164	181,400	26,302	184,389
Murray Mallee	630,357	265,749	197,904	54,854	27,229	44,796
Total 1951/52	3,562,201	1,612,987	831,893	387,361	255,170	411,312
Total 1950/51	3,536,916	1,847,791	764,862	271,396	260,856	341,269
Increase	25,285	- 234,804	67,031	115,965	-5,686	70,043

2. PRODUCTION OF GRAIN AND HAY

Divisions	GRAIN						Hay Total
	WHEAT		BARLEY		OATS		
	Bush.	Aver	Bush	Aver.	Bush	Aver	Tons
Central	5,642,211	19.05	7,459,539	24.17	833,494	17.65	164,729
Lower North	9,188,625	21.34	3,438,927	23.56	1,252,308	20.75	75,210
Upper North	1,959,158	19.41	153,642	18.15	190,425	18.97	14,283
South Eastern	520,062	23.40	437,456	20.06	737,956	24.05	66,175
Western	7,175,354	14.43	2,795,570	18.74	1,875,245	10.34	28,754
Murray Mallee	2,820,543	10.61	2,570,059	12.99	468,757	8.55	26,851
Total 1951/52	27,305,953	16.93	16,855,193	20.26	5,408,185	13.96	376,002
Total 1950/51	30,936,044	16.74	16,727,030	21.87	3,533,333	13.02	362,162
Increase	-3,630,091	0.19	128,163	-1.61	1,874,852	0.94	13,840

3. FIVE YEARS' COMPARISON

Year	WHEAT			Rainfall Agric. April- Nov.	BARLEY	OATS
	Area	Yield	Aver. per Acres			
	Acres	Bush.	Bush.	Inches	Bush.	Bush.
1946-47	2,518,948	27,906,001	11.08	10.13	8,424,067	2,780,364
1947-48	2,374,873	32,524,422	13.70	13.93	15,363,461	2,394,261
1948-49	2,063,034	26,136,346	12.67	11.73	12,103,446	2,643,419
1949-50	1,896,324	28,350,860	14.95	12.18	12,725,240	3,463,997
1950-51	1,847,791	30,936,044	16.74	11.29	16,727,030	3,533,333
Mean	2,140,194	29,170,734	13.63	11.85	13,068,645	2,963,075
1951/52	1,612,987	27,305,953	16.93	16.16	16,855,193	5,408,185

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